



THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION'S WarhammerTimes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

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Sgt Matthew Skilling, an intelligence analyst with HHC, 18th CSSB, cooks for the redeployment celebration for Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion. The Soldiers of B-Company, 113th STB, deployed to Afghanistan, in support of the CENTCOM Material Retrograde Element in June and are now getting ready to go home to North Carolina, with the rest of their brigade which is deployed to Kuwait.

18th CSSB Command Team

Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



Greetings to all members of the Warhammer Battalion and their Families!

We are pleased to welcome the month of October. October is a month to celebrate reading to children, raise awareness on domestic violence and the fourth month of our headquarters providing mission command for the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element and the month we became a joint headquarters as we welcome our Navy brothers and sisters. As we move towards our half way point of the deployment we have to remember to embrace our families in healthy and positive ways while we work towards mission accomplishment. It was once said that "children are made readers on the laps of their parents." There is something special about the time an adult spends reading to a child, something very formative. Although we are away from our families and loved ones, we can still reach out through video chat or recording a DVD and read to our children. I would en-

courage you to make sometime this month and choose a family favorite or a new book and read together. In my family, and I have little ones, some of our favorites are, *Are You My Mother*, *Good Night Moon*, *The Giving Tree*, and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

As we continue our mission here to keep our nation safe I would also ask you to look at ways to keep your community and home safe. As families struggle and overcome challenges of being separated, there are moments of increased stress. Ensure you support your community but look internal to your home and find ways to keep your family safe. As stressors increase, ensure you find ways to cope with those moments. There are many organizations on post that have opportunities for free child care and support while service members are away. We not only want to bring everyone home safely but want to ensure everyone at home remains safe. Finally, we said good-bye to B

Company 113th and welcomed over 200 contractors and a team of Navy Customs personnel to the Warhammer Battalion. The past week has been filled with new acronyms and uniforms and team building. The mission here is a morphing one but the motivation and support of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Contractors allows us to continue to set new standards of excellence as a team.

In the end, our history is one our children will read about in history books. When we safely return, we will reflect on the challenges but more so the success and dedication to a mission in which we truly led the way. It's Hammertime!

We Forge Ahead!

-Warhammer 6

Please join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/18thCSSB>

Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Hello Warhammers,

It is a great day in Afghanistan. We have embraced another month. October brings in a little cooler weather here, not much but a little cooler. As our families have fully embraced a fall and an upcoming Halloween season, take the time to communicate with them to share in their experience from afar.

As I have traveled around I have had the opportunity to see our Soldiers do great things. I am truly amazed each day on their ability to be flexible and adapt to any situation. The Warhammers are truly forging the future

in Afghanistan when it comes to recovering equipment and saving valuable tax payers dollars.

It is time to welcome a new crew to the CMRE element. We just received our fellow Sailors from the Navy to assist in the customs process. So welcome them aboard when you see them and make them feel part of the team.

As you go through challenges each day, I want Soldiers and leaders to look out for a few things. First, always have your battle buddy with you. This is imperative for our success. Next, let's all fight complacency. This is

starting to creep up on us right now. I can see that with simple discipline, and also with some of the profiles. Let's not lose focus

on why we are here. Finally always stay vigilant; this includes facing the elements that will embrace us in the upcoming months. Let's keep up the good work and let's forge ahead.

- Warhammer 7



Third Army Commander visits Bagram Retrosort Yard

By 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

18th CSSB Public Affairs Officer

Spc. Alicia Smith

1462nd TC Unit Public Affairs Representative

BAGRAM, Afghanistan— Third Army Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Vincent Brooks visited the Soldiers of the Bagram Airfield Retrograde Sort Yard (BAF RSY) on Sunday morning, September 16, 2012.

The BAF RSY is operated along with two other retrograde sort yards in Afghanistan under the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB).

The success of the BAF RSY is contributed to the effort of Soldiers from the 18th CSSB from Grafenwoehr, Germany, the 10th Sustainment Brigade of Fort Drum, NY, the 427th Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard and the 1462nd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard.

After a warm welcome, the 18th CSSB senior leadership led Lt. Gen. Brooks to the main processing tent to provide an overview of the RSY and how it ties into the other CENTCOM Materiel Retrograde Elements.

The Retrograde Sort Yard (RSY) is a vital facility in the reduction of the amount of excess materiel in Afghanistan. Between the three main Retrograde Sort Yards in the Afghan Theater, the Bagram Yard is the highest producing facility. In the month of August, the BAF RSY produced more than 400 TEUs (Twenty Foot Shipping Container Equivalent Units), far exceeding all historical productions.



Above: Spc. Brian King (RIGHT) explains how the Virtual Warehouse operates to re-circulate highly -demanded items to local units in the battlefield. This program effectively saves the US taxpayer money in supplying Office supplies, computer cables, “Chem-lights” (disposable chemical light sticks) or similar surplus items to units in-need. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

With high spirits, the group proceeded to tour other areas of the RSY.

Sgt. 1st Class Edward Dowd led Lt. Gen. Brooks to view recently opened shipping containers full of used tires, vehicle parts and even the cab of a 5-ton military transport truck.

Staff Sgt. Barry Ruger and Spc. Brian King introduced the newly built “Virtual Warehouse” to the General. The Virtual Warehouse is a successful program devised by the Soldiers of the BAF RSY to re-distribute high demand items back to units with a higher level of customer service.

Office supplies, computer cables, “Chem-lights” (disposable chemical light sticks) or similar items collected from the processing area are gathered here for issue to local units with no charge to the unit.

As the visit drew to an end, Lt. Gen. Brooks recognized five Soldiers for their hard work and dedication in running the facility. Staff Sgt. Daniel Scroggins, Sgt. Kevin Root, Spc. Justin Fivecoat, Pvt. Anthony Klenk and Cpl. Jennifer Malone all received coins from the three-star-general.

Spc. Fivecoat said, “My first general [visiting our yard], my first coin. It was exciting and new. He left an impression!”

Cpl Malone was pleased to have the General visit the yard to see how operations were run, “It was great to see the General and for him to see how the yard works.”

Lt. Gen Brooks ended his trip by speaking with all of the Soldiers and at the RSY. Proud of the progress in the BAF RSY, he said that, “We needed [the mission] to be done. We gave the mission to the 1st TSC (Theater Sustainment Command), and they gave the mission to you, because we knew that you’d get it done.”

***"My first general
[visiting our yard],
my first coin. It
was exciting and
new. He left an
impression!"***

18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

Major General Stein's Visit to the Kandahar Airfield Retrosort Yard

By Spc. Andrew Bohn
Unit Public Affairs Representative
18th CSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - On 2 September 2012, Maj. Gen. Kurt Stein, the Commander of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command and Brig. Gen. Kristin French, Commander of the Joint Sustainment Command, Afghanistan, visited the Kandahar airfield (KAF) Retrograde Sort Yard. Maj. Thomas Krupp, the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) Support Operations (SPO) Officer-in-Charge gave a quick tour of the different areas of the retrograde sort main yard.

Maj. Gen. Stein recognized the outstanding leadership and personnel from the 18th CSSB who have worked tirelessly



Cpt. Christian Numba

their trained military occupational specialties (MOS), and have become subject matter experts (SME) at their assigned missions. Among the topics of conversation this month are the upcoming elections in less than 30 days. I would like to remind Soldiers and all eligible family members to take appropriate actions to exercise what are both a right and a responsibility of all citizens. Elections are not only

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"Soldiers were placed into positions outside of their previous experience, but excelled in almost every aspect."



during the past two months to transform the Kandahar retrograde sort yard into a world class receiving, processing, redistributing, retrograding and re-deploying center. The retrograde sort yard ships material out of the Afghanistan Theater, re-distributes them inside Afghanistan so that war fighters can quickly re-utilized them, or simply saves the Federal Government a lot of money recycling the material back into the wholesale supply system.

The 18th CSSB assumed mission command of the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element, or CMRE, in June 2012 and aligned all retrograde sort yards under the 18th CSSB's Headquarters. Soldiers from B Company of the 113th Sustainment Brigade and the 18th HHC

leadership worked hard to clear a Retrosort Yard of excess. . In two short months, the retrograde sort yard has nearly doubled its output of sorted materiel. Recently, the Kandahar Retrosort Yard firmly satisfied the theater retrograde velocity goals set, by reaching a 50% increase in production. Upon completing his tour of the retrograde yard operations, Maj. Gen. Stein conducted a ceremony to recognize the leadership in the retrograde yard. Maj. Gen. Stein presented CW3 Sulaiman Bah, 1st Lt. David Ennis, and Sgt. 1st Class Sung Park with the 1st TSC Coin for Excellence. Cw3 Bah, the accountable officer of the Kandahar Retrograde Yard said, "I really appreciate Maj. Gen. Stein for taking time



Cw3 Sulaiman Bah, Sfc. Park, and 1st Lt. David Ennis receive the 1st TSC coin from Maj. Gen. Stein.

The First Sergeant's Blurb

Salutations to all from Kandahar, Afghanistan.

As Headquarters Company surpasses its 4 month bench mark during this deployment I am proud to say that all of our Head Hunters are doing well. Since our departure from Germany it is my great pleasure to report that no major incidents have fallen upon any of our Soldiers as we continue shattering our CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE) monthly goals in the Retrograde Sort Yards.

Election is the time that your voice can be heard and will make difference in who will represent the United States as our President for the next four years. So I urge every Soldier, family members, and friends to let your voice be heard and don't forget to vote.

On another note, I am proud to report that we have reenlisted six of our Head Hunters to continue being our great country's guardians as we push onward towards ending the tyranny that misguided souls do.



1st Sgt. Charles Odom

This "Head Hunter" 6 out

113th STB, Bravo Company

113th Soldiers complete mission in Afghanistan



"Working outside of my regular job

was fun; I enjoyed it, a lot of it. The hours were long, but I actually didn't mind it."

-Staff Sgt. Michael Stalvey

By Spc. Isaac Adams
Battalion Public Affairs Specialist
18th CSSB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Soldiers of B-Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion, deployed from Greensboro, N.C. in December of 2011 in support of Operation New Dawn. 7 months later, B-Company received orders for a temporary duty assignment at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The 113th Soldiers set out into the different, but rewarding mission of the Kandahar Airfield Retrograde Sort Yard, or better known as the KAF RSY.

The retrograde process in Kandahar was in its infancy when the 113th arrived. When the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, or CSSB, assumed operational control of the facility in July, the first focus was reorganization and clean-up.

The 113th was attached to the 18th CSSB to serve as a bulk of the man-power. Soldiers from Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, of the N.Y. National Guard, and the 40th Quartermaster Company, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii also work side-by-side at the KAF RSY.

Saturday, September 22, 2012, a barbeque and festivities marked the hard work of 113th Soldiers. Comrades from the other KAF RSY units seized this chance to say farewell to their friends.

113th Soldiers were the sole workforce behind the receiving yard of the KAF RSY.

Master Sgt. Walter Warren served as the yard supervisor, Sgt. 1st Class White as the day shift supervisor, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schaecher as the night shift supervisor.

The KAF RSY Soldiers were flexible with the mixed leadership and the developing procedures of the retrograde process.

Spc. Amber Vandzandt, from Eden, N.C., worked in half of the six different sections of the yard. From the "customs and pallet build section" to the "moving to receiving", and the "processing section", Spc. Vandzandt spent all of her energy in providing the best she could.

"I spent most of my time working in [the] receiving [yard]. I was put in charge of pushing out all of the tires that we had in the yard." Vandzandt stated, "That was definitely a frustrating job. I also drove a forklift, a lot, but my main job there, and what I got recognized for, was all of the tires."

Sgt. Raymond James was a section leader for the receiving yard, and developed the plan to displace all of the materiel in the receiving yard to the main yard for re-distribution.

"Working outside of my regular job was fun; I enjoyed it, a lot of it. The hours were long, but I actually didn't mind it." Stated Staff Sgt. Michael Stalvey, "Sgt. [1st Class Sung] Park and Chief [Warrant Officer Sulaiman] Bah really supported the 113th really well."

Vandzandt also added "Sgt Park always made the day better. He didn't even have to try. Whenever he came up to talk to you, he always made you feel good."

A large contracted work force from Dyncorp International arrived at the KAF RSY through September. The



Spc. Anthony Fultz (Left) and Spc. Demarcus Blakeney (Right), both of Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion, take part in a "shout out" through the Armed Forces Network, for the holiday season. (US Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



Sgt. Tasha Towning (right) and Spc. Amber Vandzandt (left) both with Bravo Company, 113th STB play spades, during the celebration barbeque for 113th's upcoming redeployment. (US Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

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427th BSB, Headquarters Company

The 27th IBCT TF Orion

"Road Runners" on the move

By 1st Lt. Thai-Bao Ngo
Unit Public Affairs Representative
Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan, 3:30 AM, September 15th 2012 - While most of Bagram Airfield is still sleeping comfortably in their bed the NY Army National Guard 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Marathon team laces up their shoes to compete in the 16th Annual Air Force Marathon.

The Air Force Marathon offers competitors the chance to participate in a variety of different challenging road courses while serving up the satisfaction of testing ones' will and stamina. Run-



Cpt. Gregory Pforter

there have not been any significant injuries to date. Soldiers located across the country at various Forward Operating Bases, continue to make a noticeable and significant difference by conducting their daily duties and missions. Throughput and velocity in the Retro Sort Yard continue to increase with the integration and effective management of civilian contractors. The same sort of progress can be said for the Base Closure Assistance Teams.

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The Captain's Corner!

October 2012 in Afghanistan is in the books. Temperatures are definitely cooling down and with the change in daylight hours, it feels more like autumn. Snow capped mountains were visible off in the distance at times this month. Unit morale appears to be holding steady and relatively positive. Soldiers have started fantasy football leagues and friendly competitions with the start of the college and NFL football seasons. There have been marathons and breast Cancer Awareness runs that Soldiers are participating as well. Emphasis on safety is paying dividends as

"I'm proud to see our guys running towards the explosion to help the fight when everyone else is running away."



ners are given the choice of competing in either a 5K, 10K, half marathon, and for those who are not "faint of heart", a grueling 26.2 mile full marathon.

Marathons dates back to the fall of 490 BC. After the Athenians defeated the Persians in the Battle of Marathon, the Greek Soldier Pheidippides ran the entire distance from Marathon to Athens without stopping and burst into the assembly, exclaiming "victory", (We have won), before collapsing and dying.

The first official Air Force marathon was held on September 20th, 1997, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Air Force, and is held the third Saturday of each Septem-

ber in celebration of the U.S. Air Force.

2012 marks the 16th year of the marathon, and will be held September 15, three days before the 65th anniversary of the Air Force.

The 27th IBCT Marathon team is comprised of 7 Soldiers: 1st Lt. Thai Ngo of C Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, Warrant Officer Michael Keller of the Headquarters Company, 27th IBCT, Sgt. 1st Class, Benjamin Lewis from the Headquarters of the 27th IBCT, Sgt. 1st Class Nara Tith of 10th Sustainment Brigade, Sgt. Joriann Garcia-Hernandez, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Sterling, and Pfc. Matthew Van Scoter from the Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support

Battalion. Although being from different units, throughout the 27th IBCT, these Soldiers all came together as part of the Centcom Material Recovery Element (CMRE), under operational command of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The 27th IBCT, also known as the Orion Brigade, has a long rich military history in upstate New York. Task Force Orion has Soldiers currently serving throughout Afghanistan since mid-March. New York State Veteran's Home of Oxford, New York sponsors the Task Force Orion marathon team. Sgt. 1st Class Lewis works as a nurse at the NYS

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The First Sergeant's Blurp



1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

HHC has been staying busy and remains motivated. Our Soldiers have been recognized for many achievements as we continue to drive through this mission. I have been battlefield circulating and connecting with the Soldiers as much as possible. Over the past month I have visited Forward Operating Bases Shank, Salerno, Sharana and Camp Pratt. All Headquarters Company Redistribution Property Assistance Teams, Retrosort Yard members, Mobile Container Assistance Team, Base Closure Assistance Teams and Customs Agent at each location are doing well and are setting the standard. The integration of civilian contractors amongst the Retrosort Yards, Base Closure Assistance Teams and MRT have been challenging and rewarding. All sections seem to be running on all cylinders and their hard work is recognized by higher echelons. Here at Bagram, the 1-82nd Airborne Battalion redeployed to the United States. Master Sgt. Lampkins, Sgt. 1st Class Shay, Sgt. Vandermeed, Pft Perry and Spc Sherman assisted and were an integral component of their redeployment. Their efforts paved the way and facilitated a smooth turn-in of equipment and property. It was a historical moment for us to be a part of the off-ramp process.

At the Retrosort Yard in Bagram, Staff Sgt. Williams, Cpl Depape, Spc Wise and Spc Pratt received Army Achievement Medals from 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander for their outstanding performances. This illustrates the dedication and relentless hard work of our Soldiers. We hit the ground running since April and have not eased off the throttle.

The opportunity to lead this Company into theatre is a great privilege. Soldiers are safely conducting tasks and missions outside of their Military Occupation Specialty on a daily basis and are excelling. Stay safe and continue the hard work.

427th BSB, Bravo Company

Reassuring Beliefs

By Pfc. Brandon McMullen
B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, Unit
Public Affairs Representative
Reviewed by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

FOB WALTON, Afghanistan – On a warm and bright Afghanistan day, Sgt. David Frank from B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) stood before his Material Recovery Team (MRT) Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. Anthony Scollante. Sgt. Frank looked eager, as a child on Christmas morning as he confirmed his trust and beliefs in the United States Army, The New York Army National Guard and his company with his reenlistment.



Cpt. Maurice Amaya

jobs.

To our family members back home, you should be very proud of your loved ones and the important work that they are doing to support this mission in Afghanistan. Like I always preach to my peers and fellow active duty counterparts, B 427 is here to finish the job that started in New York; based on the attacks of September 11, 2001. I have a sense of pride just being from New York. Furthermore, I'd like to thank you for the support you have given to your husbands,

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"I liked what I was doing at Phoenix, it was pretty cool, but its nice to come back and actually be with B Company"

-Spc. Ian Yannantuono,

The FOB (Forward Operating Base) Walton MRT (Material Recovery Team) is an element under operational control of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, whose mission is to directly support the units in Afghanistan.

The MRT provides oversight and guidance in the process of how to identify, segregate, control, and process excess, repairable materiel throughout the Afghan theatre. Such items are then redistributed to other theaters

of operation or processed for use at military installations saving the American taxpayer millions of dollars.

Sgt. Frank, a "91B, Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic" assigned to the MRT at FOB Walton and B Company 427th BSB, raised his right hand on September 3rd 2012, at FOB Walton, Afghanistan, and extended his contract with the Army for six more years.

Sgt. Frank's spoke

(Continued on page 16)



1st Lt. Anthony Scollante re-enlisted Sgt. Frank at FOB Walton, 2012 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (US Army Photo by Pfc. Brandon McMullen, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, Public Affairs)



1st Sgt. David Evans

ISG Corner

The end is in sight. However not only do we have the mission to continue but a laundry list of tasks to complete in preparation to redeploy. As individual Soldiers we need to have our equipment packed properly to turn in OCIE at the mobilization site; our non-essential equipment needs to be packed into our CONEX for its return state side by 15 October; cold weather gear needs to be available for wear later in the year.

It's APFT time! All APFTs will be completed NLT COB 31 October 2012. Be sure that all documentation is submitted to the orderly room and that you receive confirmation that your information is submitted into DTMS and RCAS.

Happy Halloween!

The Captain's Corner!

A Guardsman Life Experience

It is a great pleasure to serve with the men and women of the CENTCOM Material Recovery Element (CMRE) Mission – South. Our current organizational structure is made up of Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard Soldiers, Sailors and Contractors.

Bravo Company of the 427th Brigade Support Battalion brings an impressive range of life skills and work experience that truly enhances our ability to accomplish any of our current missions. These skills are quantifiably much more than the typical Military Occupation base skills that Soldiers learn and train for during Initial Entry Training instead; these are skills that have been acquired through our civilian life experiences and civilian

The First Sergeant's Blurp

The Captain's Corner!

1462nd Transportation Company Ensuring Safety: The Escort Team

By Spc. Alicia E. Smith

1462nd Transportation Company, Michigan National Guard, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Reviewed by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

BAGRAM, Afghanistan –The Soldiers of the “Escort Team” are the Retrosort Yard’s first line of defense when it comes to dealing with harmful materiel and local national drivers. These Soldiers are the first to ensure proper documentation is presented and mainly communicate with the Afghan national truck drivers. Staff Sgt. Leonard Clay of the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion leads the Escort Team. His staff are, Spc. Corey Poore, Spc. Ryan Strom, Spc. Fredric Wanke, & Spc. William Southworth, all from the 1462nd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard.

“We bring in trucks from different camps or FOBs

“...it’s an enabler in bringing our Soldiers home...And our part we play is just a material part of it”

-1st Lt. Glenford Rose



(Forward Operating Bases),” Says Staff Sgt. Clay.

Without the Escort Crew, the Bagram Airfield Retro-sort Yard cannot function. They play a very important and crucial role in how the yard is continuously able to process and redistribute by escorting trucks in and out of the yard.

The Soldiers that work in the Escort Team bring in large amounts of trucks from the gates. Sometimes the Soldiers have to communicate with limited Pashto/Dari to instruct the local national truck drivers. “We have no interpreter so

Soldiers,

As you can tell, we have new faces at work, we have lost a few faces, and we are looking forward towards our next mission. I can describe what has been happening for days, however I think Bob Dylan said it best. Dylan once sang, “The times they are a changing.”

Your hard work and dedication has paid off greatly. Nothing will be more rewarding than looking back and remembering the great friendships you have made while processing millions of dollars worth of equipment, or escorting some of the funniest Other Country Nationals you’ve ever met. All the bad days, good days and everything in between will soon become a memory. Capt. Hall, and Ist

Sgt. Spreeman were very impressed with their visit to Afghanistan to see all of you. Though I don’t think she could stress how bad the “moon dust” really is in Camp Pratt.

All of our distinguished visitors we have had in the Retro Sort Yard has been very impressed with all of your efforts. And now as we pass the torch and start to let the
(Continued on page 12)



1st Lt. Anthony Malenfant

it can be frustrating at times but a learning experience too, mostly we use hand gestures but sometimes we have a driver that can stand as an interpreter. Typically it’s an adventure because of the language barrier.” Sgt. Leonard said, “...as Soldiers committed to do what we can in every way, we strive to understand and learn from what experiences we do have with this and other cultures of and help them in any way

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Spc. Corey Poore, Spc. Fredric Wanke and Spc. Ryan Strom from the 1462nd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard collect paperwork and IDs from the local national truck driver from other bases to the Bagram Airfield Retro-sort Yard. (US Army Photo’s by Spc. Alicia Smith, 1462nd Transportation Company Public Affairs)

The First Sergeant's Blurp

Hello from Michigan.

Duty-Fulfill your obligations. Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. I know I had to take a knee and go back for emergency leave. However, that does not mean I can stop being your acting first sergeant. Again, I have pride and faith in all my NCO’s out there on the battlefield doing what we do best, taking care of Soldiers. Ist Sgt. Spreeman was glad that he got to visit all of you. He knows that the beans and bullets are distributed and that the mission will be completed. You guys are working your way into the history books, and you’ll be able to tell generations after all the good times you had representing the Michigan National Guard. Thank you for your hard work Soldiers, and stay safe.

Sgt. 1st Class Ray Ruzzin
First Sergeant



Sgt. 1st Class Ray Ruzzin

18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Grafenwöhr, Deutschland



Volksbund Deutsche
Kriegsgräberfürsorge
Bagram Airfield
Kandahar Airfield
Camp Pratt
Freihung

When: 10 November 2012

Where: Kandahar Airfield
Bagram Airfield
Camp Pratt
Freihung, Germany.

Time: 0600 - 0800, Local Time

Sign up will be online

See your chain of command
for more information

The German War Graves Commission is a humanitarian organization charged by the Federal Republic of Germany to register the German war dead abroad and to ensure it is updated and monitored. It advises relatives of war grave care, supervises public and private sites, supports international cooperation and assists within the sector of war grave care.

The Warhammers, of the 18th CSSB, are the only foreign military members to donate to the German fund and have been doing so since 2009.

113th STB complete mission in Afghanistan (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

113th passed along their work experience accumulated in the three months to Dynacorp workers as a final mission at the KAF RSY.

In the last few weeks of their work at the yard, the Soldiers of the 113th never slowed down, and push through at full force until the very end.

"I'm so glad to be going home. I feel like we've been gone forever, which we have. We've been gone since August, and now I'm ready to go."

- Sgt. Tasha Towning

The Soldiers of Bravo Company prepare to return to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, where they will reassemble with their battalion and brigade to return home to North Carolina.

At the farewell barbeque, an award cere-

mony honored outstanding Soldiers of the company. Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery White, the day shift supervisor for the receiving yard, and Spc. Nicholas O'Conner, a Soldier in the customs section received the Army Commendation Medal for their performance in the Kandahar Retro Sort Yard. 20 other 113th Soldiers were recognized for their hard work and leadership with the Army Achievement Medal.

As she gears up and gets ready to go home to Lugoff, S.C, Sgt Tasha Towning, the processing supervisor for the night shift says, "I'm so glad to be going home. I feel like we've been gone forever, which we have. We've been gone since August, and now I'm ready to go."



Spc. Nicholas O'Conner, a customs section Soldier, of Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion, takes part in a "shout out" through the Armed Forces Network, for the holiday season. (US Army photo by



Escort Team (Continued)

that we can."

"The rest of the crew does about 80% of the work while I am left to do most of the paperwork, so without them not as much would get done. They all have great personalities and work with the [local nationals] very well," said Sgt. Leonard.

There is an inherent danger with unknown cargo. It is difficult not knowing what the trucks contain until you open the shipping container and sometimes they are not secured. Live munitions, exposed wires or fake IED training aids have had trucks turned away trucks at the front gate.

"From the time I have been here, I have seen significant progress and change in the RSY. A lot of materials and gear have come through here. We've saved a lot of money!" states Sgt. Leonard Clay.



Soldiers of the Escort Crew call out numbers that identifies the driver of trucks for the crew to assemble into a convoy and escorted to the Bagram Retrosort Yard. (US Army Photo's by Spc. Alicia Smith, 1462nd Transportation Company Public Affairs)

New York 427th BSB Marathon Team (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

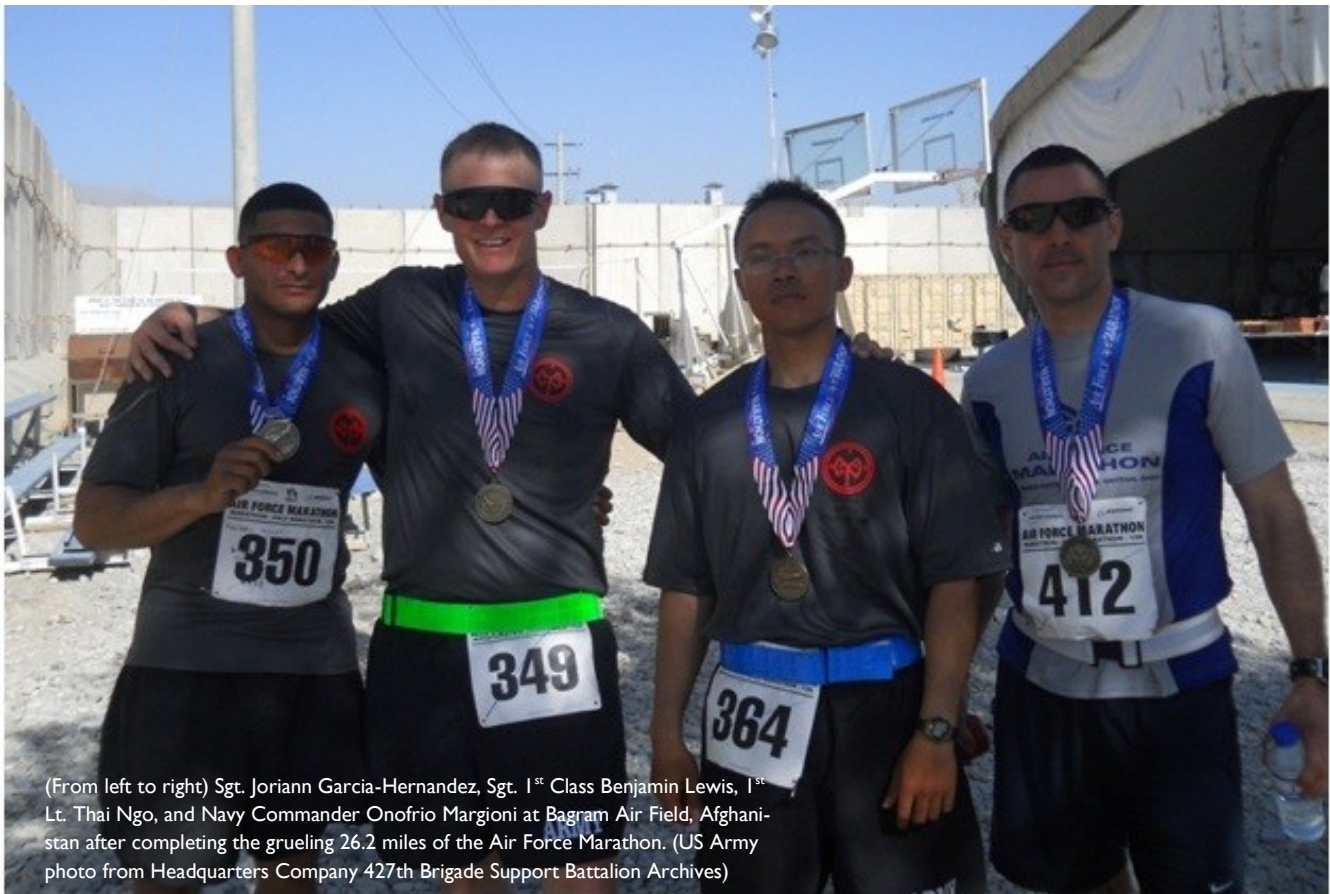
Veterans' Home in Oxford. The organization covered the cost of the marathon team's race tee shirts and friends pledged their full support. Sgt. 1st Class Lewis is a seasoned runner and team captain. Before the race started, Sgt. 1st Class Lewis spoke to his teammates, "this race is more than just a race, its New Yorkers taking care of New Yorkers, its Soldiers both past and present taking care of Soldiers." Every runner has their own reasons for running the grueling race. It was 1st Lt. Ngo and Sgt. Garcia's first marathon. SGT Garcia was the team's youngest runner at 27 and dedicated the run to his wife, Kristie L. Garcia, "I've always wanted to run a marathon; being part of a team the timing just seemed right," he said, "When I doubted

myself she believed in me and told me I could do it. There were times I wanted to quit, but every time I thought of quitting I thought of her, so I kept on going through the pain".

The team's other marathon new comer, 1LT Ngo was in high spirits as well. "What a feeling....to start as a team and finish as a team in the time we did," Ngo said after finishing. 1st Lt. Ngo is a Medical Supply Officer in his company. As an aspiring Physicians Assistant, Lt. Ngo learned first-hand about the vigorous demand that running a marathon puts on ones' body. "I've never been this sore and hungry at the same time", Lt. Ngo said as he gorged on cookies at the 427th BSB command post after the race. Lt. Ngo exclaimed, "to be this sore and this hungry at the same time really shows the amount of energy distance runners' expend during the course of the race". Sgt. 1st Class Lewis dedicated the run to his lovely

wife Jessica and their three boys, Benny, Braden, and Brett, he said, "when I run it helps to take my mind off of missing them, out there it's my teammates and the road".

The 427th BSB also had runners competing in the 10K event in other areas of Afghanistan. Warrant Officer Keller was the team's lone participant in Kandahar Air Field. Mr. Keller ran the 10Km event and said, "It felt good, to get out, run, and build camaraderie with fellow Soldiers and Airmen". There were over 500 runners participating in the Air Force Marathon on Bagram. While every runner runs for their own reasons, the Soldiers of the 27th IBCT Marathon team started and finished the day together proving there is nothing greater than pride, determination, and brotherhood. "Victory!!!!!!"



(From left to right) Sgt. Joriann Garcia-Hernandez, Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Lewis, 1st Lt. Thai Ngo, and Navy Commander Onofrio Margioni at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan after completing the grueling 26.2 miles of the Air Force Marathon. (US Army photo from Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion Archives)

HHC 427th BSB Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Civilian contractors have begun to take the lead on assigned missions and work with various units and Task Forces located across RC-East in an effort to meet their specific timelines and objectives. The Material Redistribution Team missions are on the rise with the increase of base closures and transfers as units consolidate and reorganize at larger hubs. Soldiers are all gainfully employed and continue to plow forward.

Two more Soldiers were promoted this month. Spc. Matthew Vanscoter and Spc. Emery Schwartz both earned well deserving promotions and their hard work does not go unnoticed. Impact Army Achievement Medals, or AAMs, were awarded to Spc Pratt, Spc Wise, Cpl Depape and Staff Sgt. Williams for their contributions to the Bagram Retrosort Yard and Spc Ruiz for his excellence as a Customs Agent

at FOB Salerno. Spc Sherman and Pfc Perry were also recognized and were presented with Impact AAMs for their actions and hard work during the Four-Corners operation at Bagram which facilitated the redeployment the 1/82nd Airborne Battalion. Once again, I would like to emphasize Headquarter company's redeployment date has not changed. It is still set for early 2013. Safety and Soldier care remains a priority among the command team. Leaders across the formation strive and excel in this respect. Thank you for your hard work. As Headquarters Company proceeds through the last third of the deployment, we can not lose focus on safety and the mission at-hand. Great job thus far. Keep up the great work.

"Hammer Down" HHC.
Capt. Pforter

1462nd TC Capt's Corner (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

civilian contractors run, we must remain focused and guide them in the right direction. It is very important we keep working and giving our 100% everyday. I have full faith that we can complete the job safely, efficiently, and safely without any accident or incident.

Through all the obstacles and solutions that have come and went, I believe that the Retro Sort Yard is a better place. We all worked well with the various units such as the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and the 427th Brigade Support Battalion. Good job 1462nd TC, I am very proud of you, and again cannot say thank you enough. So for the last time, Keep calm and Soldier on.

1st Lt. Anthony Malenfant
1462nd Transportation Company
Company Commander

B 427th BSB Capt's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 7)

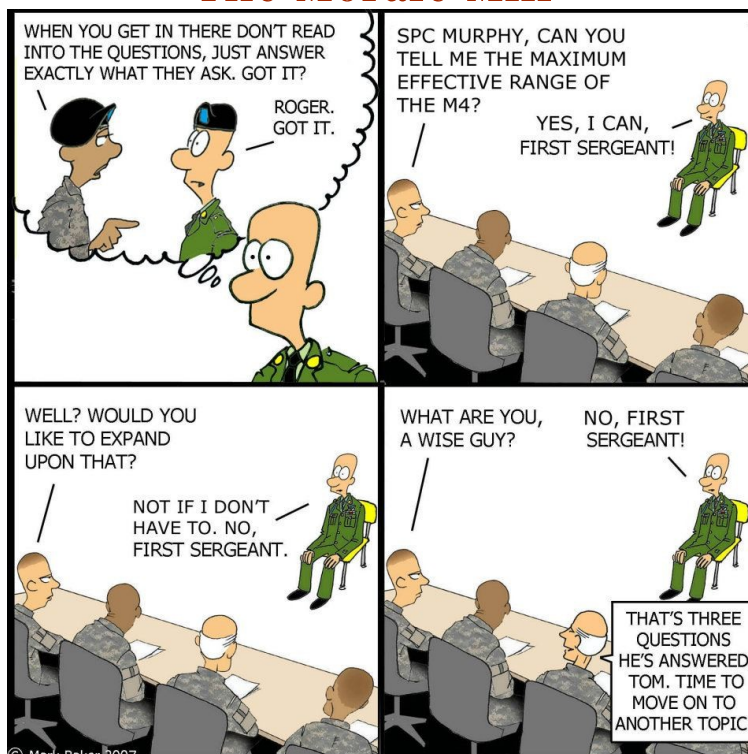
wives, sons, daughters, and friends who are deployed along side me today. Also, I would like to recognize the sacrifices that you make for our Nation. Remember, you are deployed along with the Soldiers in B 427; yes you may not encounter our dust storms, hot weather and the smelly environment we are in. You often carry out "missions" of your own that would typically be shared or handled by your significant other now here in Afghanistan.

You combat stress is the "I miss you" or the "I love you" that you do not hear or have the face to face with your loved one. You are sharing the sense of missing out on those special occasions with your Soldier and your family members as you may miss out on birthday hugs, wedding anniversary kisses, or just a hug from your sons and daughters to their Mom or Dad.

Fall is here; this is good news as we are our initial preparation to re-deploy back. Please be certain to maintain communication with your loved ones and continue to focus on the mission. Remember all the ARMY VALUES and Keep the Faith!

Capt Amaya

The Morale Mill



For all the Soldiers who are going to the Promotion Board

HHC 18th CSSB Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

about choosing the next President of the United States of America, but it also about choosing people who will represent us and speak on our behalf in the US Congress, Federal and State legislative and judicial bodies, and more close to you people who will claim to speak for you as town or city councilmen (woman) and even in your school district. If you have not done so yet, request your absentee ballot now and vote immediately. It doesn't matter who your party affiliation is or who your candidates are, be a citizen and vote!

Another big topic of conversation is the Combined Federal Campaign Overseas (CFC-O). HHC

Soldiers joined the leadership on 17 September 2012 to officially launch the CFC-O campaign for the Battalion in Kandahar airfield (KAF), Afghanistan. The campaign is the opportunity for all Federal employees to make donations to charity organizations around the world. It also offers the opportunity to donate to your military community in support of morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) activities. US Europe has collected over \$300,000 dollars last year and this year, USAREUR community aims to break that record. Let's make sure we are part of the effort to bring assistance to those who are in need or just simply to causes that we

want to support.

Before I bow out, I want to offer a shout out to all of the Soldiers who reenlisted this month. Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Guzman, Staff Sgt. Phillips, Staff Sgt. Olivieri-rodriguez, Sgt. Allison, Spc. Islas, Spc. Andrews. Thank you for volunteering to serve our United States of America, our great nation as a member of the greatest military ever formed by mankind.

**HEADHUNTERS ... HEADS
WILL ROLL!
WE FORGE AHEAD!**

Capt Christian S. Nomba



Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Soldiers 1st Lt. Lee Schroeder reenlists Sgt. David Kirby for another six years of service in the United States Army in front of an AH-64 "Apache" attack helicopter on Tuesday, October 2nd 2012 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

The Soldiers of Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion form up for the award ceremony to recognize the high performers of their company. Col. Douglas McBride, the Commander of the 593rd Sustainment Brigade, CENTCOM Material Retrograde Element, speaks in high regards to the 113th for everything they have accomplished, and wishes them a good and safe journey home. (US Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



The Warhammer Times



Happppppy Birthday!

Reassuring Beliefs (Continued)

Pfc. Darryl Allen

Oct. 1

Chief Warrant Office Sulaiman Bah

Oct. 2

Spc. Robert Gadson

Oct. 3

Cpt. Erica Conrad

Oct. 6

Staff Sgt. Heather Stickney

Oct. 8

Spc. Stephen Barrant

Oct. 10

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Bond

Oct. 10

1st Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert

Oct. 10

Spc. John Weyant

Oct. 11

1st Sgt. Charles Odom

Oct. 13

2nd Lt. Michael Costello

Oct. 16

Spc. Timothy Wood

Oct. 16

1st Lt. Lee Schroeder

Oct. 20

Spc. Elvis King

Oct. 21

Pfc. Aaron Demunn

Oct. 23

Maj. Edward Cappelano

Oct. 26

Spc. Tina Pratt

Oct. 29

loudly and proudly after 1st Lt. Scollante, "I do solemnly swear to defend and protect the constitution of the United States and the State of New York..."

Sgt. Frank and members his team celebrated the ceremony and his decision to stay with chants of Bravo 427's motto, "Bulldogs Keeping the Faith", and other boastful cheers and words of encouragement.

After the ceremony, Sgt. Frank stated, "I am proud to be a member of such an amazing company". 1st Lt. Scollante, Bravo 427 Platoon Leader said, "Sgt. Frank has been an asset to Bravo 427, and he's full of positive energy." 1st Lt. Scollante also said, "I am just happy to be a part of Sgt. Frank's military extension".



The Navy Customs Personnel along with their Officer-in-Charge, Lt. Cmdr. Kendall Kalstad, and their Senior Enlisted Leader Senior Chief Petty Officer John Matuza, who all just joined the CENTCOM Material Recovery Element (CMRE), under the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, all pose together for a photo, with their new command team, Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher and Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin, before they go their separate ways to work as customs agents and inspectors for the CMRE.

Sgt. Luis Andujar, a Customs Agent of the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, from Rochester, NY would like to shoutout to everyone at home especially his wife Amy, "I'll be home soon, I love you!"



Ssg. Heather Stickney from the Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard says, "Hi Sweetie, All my love from Afghanistan... Can't wait to be where I belong with you, love."



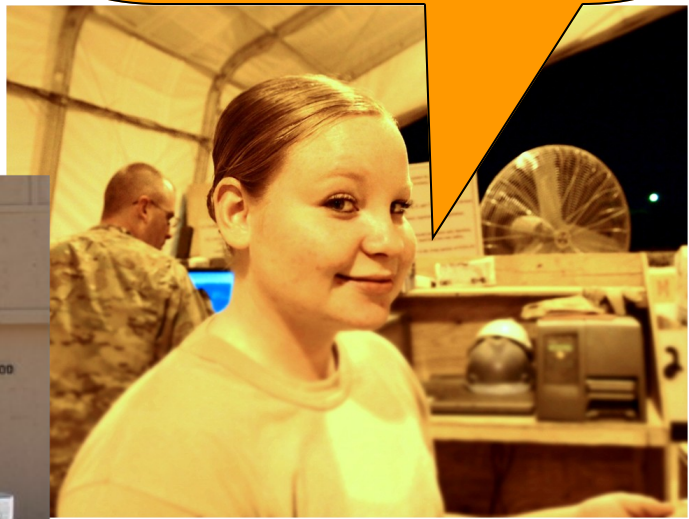
Capt Seth Burgess a Military Intelligence Officer of the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, originally from Newark, NY said, "The support from home during B/427's 2012 deployment to Afghanistan has been incredible. For me, it's been very strengthening to know that my family, friends, and community are standing behind us serving overseas. Special appreciation to my employer iVEDiX, inc. and CEO Raj Kutty, and to my hero at home, my wife Jessica. With 2 little ones in diapers and a monster of a Golden Retriever too, Jessica's daily mission is a dynamic challenge that she executes with vigor."



Spc. Jonathon Persons, a Customs Agent of the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, from Watertown, NY would like to tell his my wife Trudy, "I love you and hope to be home soon."



Pfc. Briann Rice a processor at the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard from the 1462nd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard says, "to my honey... I miss you like the devil!! Can't wait to be with you again!!"



After conducting four rollercoaster like combat maneuvers in honor of his re-enlistment of 4 more years SPC Saul Andrews says "Now I know why we say 'So help me God!'" SPC Andrews, from New Orleans, Louisiana, is a 92A, automated logistic specialist, from HHC 18th CSSB working as a processor in the retro-sort yard.

Staff Sgt. Alexander Oliveri-Rodriguez from Arecibo, Porto Rico, a mortuary affairs specialist from HHC 18th CSSB, said "I am proud to be offered the chance to serve my country another six years but that ride made me miss my mom." Staff Sgt. Oliveri-Rodriguez is the supervising of the Camp Pratt Mayor Cell reception desk.

Team Pratt

Camp Pratt continues to build up. Units all around the Area of Operation are in need of equipment and come to Camp Pratt for the easiest and quickest to fulfill their needs. Units are often so grateful to be able to acquire item that may have taken weeks to arrive that they are returning favors to the retro-sort team. The retro-sort team has been given free pizzas, UAV tours and even conducted a re-enlist on a black hawk. The retro-sort team is also getting ready to say goodbye to their comrades from the 1462nd TC as they get ready to head home. The retro-sort yard will be conducting a cook out to give them a proper parting.



The Warhammer Times

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



Website:



<http://www.eur.army.mil/21tsc/16sb/18cssb/index.html>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/18thCSSB

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Mission Statement:

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion rapidly, and safely, deploys worldwide, providing expeditionary logistics; command and control over the full spectrum of sustainment operations as part of a Battalion, or Theater Sustainment Command operation as directed; on order support of U.S. Army Europe deployment and redeployment operations.

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Spc. Isaac Adams

HHC 18th CSSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

B 427th BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

HHC 427th BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

1462nd TC Unit Public Affairs Representative

B 113th STB Unit Public Affairs Representative

Spc. Andrew Bohn

Pfc. Brandon McMullen

1st Lt. Ngo Thai Bao

Spc. Alicia Smith

1st Lt. David Bradford